

Mr. CALLAHAN. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for yielding, but to tell the gentleman that we should protect American companies as you are doing for your constituents in Ohio.

As the gentleman knows, I have addressed this matter with the director of OPIC and told him that if indeed moneys were expropriated by the Palestinian Authority, well, then they should discontinue the delay in making a decision.

But the gentleman is right. As he well knows, the Palestinian Authority is going to be here in just a few months because they are out meeting at Camp David now, making concessions, saying that we are going to give them all of these billions of dollars if they will sign this peace agreement. I would just like to echo what the gentleman is saying.

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If we indeed are going to start giving money to the PLO, then they are going to have to abide by standards of cooperation with the rest of the world.

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Chairman, reclaiming my time, is the chairman supporting my amendment?

Mr. CALLAHAN. The chairman is supporting the gentleman's cause, and, if indeed there was not an objection, I probably would vote for the amendment.

Mr. TRAFICANT. I did not bring the one that is subject to a point of order. Mr. CALLAHAN. I understand that.

Mr. TRAFICANT. I am asking for the gentleman's vote. That is the only protection this Congress has.

Mr. CALLAHAN. I just told the gentleman that if the amendment were to come to the floor, I probably would vote for it.

Mr. TRAFICANT. I expect that it will.

Mr. Chairman, let me close by saying this: Rip them off. Go ahead. Rip off American companies and let monarchs and dictators say "Go to hell. Go to court." Not in my district. I want an "aye" vote on my amendment.

The CHAIRMAN. The time of the gentleman from Ohio has expired.

The gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY) is recognized for 5 minutes in opposition to the amendment.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume. I ask the Chair to let me know when I have consumed two minutes.

Mr. Chairman, if we can eliminate the bloviating, let me simply say that I oppose this amendment for two reasons: Number one, it is my understanding, we do not have the facts in this case. We do not have the facts in this case, and we should not take an action which could interfere drastically in the peace talks now going on at Camp David on the basis of a 5-minute explanation from one Member of Congress who has an ax to grind on the subject. The gentleman may be right; he may be wrong. All I know is that my understanding is that at this

very moment the company to which the gentleman refers may be under investigation by the U.S. Government itself for the way it does business.

Secondly, for us to eliminate all funding for the Palestinian Authority would be incredibly against the interests of the United States Government. The last time I talked to Prime Minister Rabin before he was assassinated, he said to me, "For God's sake, do not let anyone interfere with the ability of the United States Government to deal with the Palestinian Authority, because if you cannot deal with them, then the only party left on the Arab side you can deal with in the Middle East is Hamas, and they are terrorists, and then there will be no hope at all for an agreement for peace in the Middle East."

Mr. Rabin gave his life looking for that peace, so did Mr. Sadat, and I do not think that that should be disregarded because one Member of Congress has come to believe that one company, which may be under investigation by our own Government, that their interests ought to take precedence over the United States' national interests.

Mr. Chairman, how much time have I consumed?

The CHAIRMAN. The gentleman has 3 minutes remaining.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Chairman, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. GEJDENSON).

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Chairman, I have a parliamentary inquiry.

The CHAIRMAN. The gentleman will state it.

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Chairman, the gentleman said he had but one speaker remaining, or I could have reserved my time.

Mr. OBEY. Since I said that, the distinguished minority whip has asked to speak, and so has the gentleman from Connecticut.

Mr. TRAFICANT. Then the gentleman should have notified me.

Mr. OBEY. I cannot see ahead of time.

Mr. TRAFICANT. The gentleman has also made allegations of an investigation of a company.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Chairman, this is my time.

The CHAIRMAN. All Members will suspend.

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Chairman, further parliamentary inquiry. Being that the gentleman said he had only one speaker, and I closed, is it in order to at least let me have a minute to respond to these types of statements, or shall we keep to the fact that the gentleman claimed he had but one and forced me to utilize my time?

The CHAIRMAN. The Chair would ask all Members to suspend.

Under the rules and precedents of the House, the gentleman from Wisconsin defending the committee position has the right to close debate. Other state-

ments which may be made in the course of the debate cannot be enforced, of course, by the Chair.

The gentleman from Wisconsin has 3 minutes remaining.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Chairman, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Connecticut, because I have another Member who also has informed me he wishes to comment on the amendment.

Mr. GEJDENSON. Mr. Chairman, the gentleman from Ohio has one company with a problem in the Palestinian entity. I have a list here that we just in moments put together of 42 countries where American businesses have disputes. If we are going to end our foreign policy every time there is a corporate dispute, we ought to just pack up and go home.

We have had five wars in the last 50 years in this part of the world. We have had women and children killed, including Americans, in terrorist activities and accidental bombings and attacks. We are at Camp David today trying to end this conflict that has gone on for a century. I admire the gentleman for caring about his constituent, but our responsibility here for this unique opportunity for peace cannot be squandered for one economic debate.

Reject the amendment. Support the effort at Camp David.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Chairman, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BONIOR), the distinguished minority whip.

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Chairman, I want to also associate myself with the distinguished gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY) and the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. GEJDENSON).

I rise in strong support of the Middle East process and in strong opposition to the Traficant amendment. Right now, as the gentleman from Connecticut has said, the leaders of Israel and the Palestinian Authority are meeting in Camp David seeking to forge an agreement to end a generation of conflict. That leaves us with a very clear choice today: Do we support that process, or do we seek to disrupt or possibly derail a just and lasting peace in the Middle East?

Now is not the time to be cutting or conditioning aid to the Palestinian Authority, or to Israel. It is in our own interest to support this peace process and to help build the foundations of peace and progress for the Middle East.

I strongly urge my colleagues to resoundingly defeat this amendment.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, let me simply say to the gentleman from Ohio, after the peace talks are over we will have plenty of time to assess the conduct of both the Palestinian Authority and the conduct of the company in question, and if at that time it is clear that the U.S. Government is satisfied with the business practices of that company, and if the U.S. Government concludes that it